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ABSTRACT

With comments from a variety of sources, this book presents fictional scenarios intended to get librarians thinking about possibilities. The book offers eight new future scenarios that explore such developments as virtual reality, robots, time travel, biotechnology, computer viruses, security, and more--all within the context of the public library. In one scenario the library has abandoned the distribution of books in favor of an advanced form of virtual reality called "Experience Technology." In another, the library merges with biotechnology and speaks to individuals through brain implants. These scenarios are intended to stimulate discourse and exploration of issues. Written in a conversational and often humorous tone, they are as entertaining and thought-provoking as science fiction stories. Current trends are woven into the text as issues surrounding the library's role in the future are discussed. Contains a list of quotations about the future and an extensive bibliography for further reading. (AEF)

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